# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE FUBOTV INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION

Case No. 1:21-CV-01412 (ALC) (JLC)
CLASS ACTION
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

# **AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Lead Plaintiff Nordine Aamchoune, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby brings this Amended Class Action Complaint for violations of federal securities law ("Amended Complaint") against Fubo'TV Inc. (the "Company" or "Fubo") and David Gandler ("Gandler"); Edgar M. Bronfman Jr. ("Bronfman"); and Simone Nardi ("Nardi") (collectively, "Individual Defendants," and together with the Company, "Defendants"), based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by counsel, which included a review of the Company's public documents, conference call transcripts, Company announcements, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings, wire and press releases published by and regarding the Company, financial analysts' reports and advisories about the Company, interviews with former Fubo employees who have specific, personal knowledge of the facts alleged herein, and other information upon information and belief.

Plaintiff's counsel's investigation into the matters alleged herein is ongoing and many relevant facts are known only to, or are exclusively within the custody or control of, the Company and the Individuals Defendants. Plaintiff believes that substantial additional evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

# **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. This is a federal securities class action on behalf of a class consisting of all persons or entities other than Defendants who purchased or otherwise acquired common shares of Fubo stock between March 23, 2020 and January 4, 2021, both dates inclusive (the "Class Period"), seeking to recover damages caused by Defendants' violations of the federal securities laws under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.
- 2. Founded in 2015, Fubo is a Florida corporation headquartered in New York. Fubo is a multichannel video programming distributor ("vMVPD") that offers subscribers access to thousands

of live sporting events as well as news and entertainment content. Fubo's platform allows customers to access content through "streaming" devices as well as on "SmartTVs," mobile phones, tablets and computers. In its regulatory filings and public statements, Fubo positions itself as a content distributor at the intersection of three "megatrends" described in detail herein: cord-cutting, connected TV advertising, and online sports wagering. While Fubo revenues are almost entirely derived from the sale of subscription services and advertising in the United States, it also provides streaming services in Canada and Spain.

- 3. During the Class Period, Defendants disseminated false and misleading statements that misrepresented Fubo's financial health and its operating condition. These misleading statements and omissions related to a variety of Fubo's business operations and performance metrics, including, among others, the Company's escalating expenses, Fubo's inability to attract and generate advertising revenue, its potentially shrinking addressable market, the Company's highly-touted advantages over its peers, Fubo's valuation, and the likelihood that the Company could meaningfully enter the arena of online sports wagering.
- 4. For example, Fubo did not disclose the short-term nature of its contracts with content providers and the impact that these contracts had on Fubo's operations, driving up expenses and operating losses, while also requiring the Company to raise its subscriber fees and limiting its capacity to purchase premium content that its highly capitalized peers acquire and made available to their subscriber base. Fubo was at a competitive disadvantage that made it difficult to retain and attract new subscribers at projected growth rates, which in turn, slowed revenue growth and contributed to Fubo's high level of operating losses.
- 5. These undisclosed constraints resulted in a number of critical content deals falling through. For example, Fubo failed to close a major deal with HBO shortly before the final season of "Game of Thrones" one of the most popular shows in the world was set to premier. This

extremely important deal failed to close despite the Company already having taken the steps to acquire the episodes, according to a confidential witness described herein. Similarly, the Company's acquisition of Sony's PlayStation Vue failed to materialize because Fubo could not absorb the high content costs that its well-financed competitors were able to commit. Fubo was required to pass on the deal despite Defendant Gandler's own admission that the deal "would help give [Fubo] name recognition" and allow Fubo to "absorb PlayStation Vue's subscriber base."

- 6. The same confidential witness also revealed that Fubo lacked the ability to provide "user data" to content providers. User data includes information about a viewers' location, age, how many hours they spend viewing a particular show or what type of content they are viewing, as well as other demographic information. User data is vital to helping content providers allocate advertising dollars. However, Fubo acknowledged in meetings with content providers that it lacked the capability to collect user data, in part, due to limitations in the technical backend of Fubo's platform. Other former employers have independently confirmed that the Company did not have access to relevant user data to attract advertisers or encourage content providers to partner with it under more favorable terms. As a result, Fubo was placed at a competitive disadvantage in its negotiations with content providers.
- 7. The same confidential witness further indicated that the Company's content contracts were short term—between two to five years—an extremely costly endeavor that translated into higher content costs. Thus, the Company was subject to higher pricing from content providers which required the Company to absorb such escalating costs and incur increased losses, to charge higher subscription fees, and/or to jettison these otherwise potentially lucrative contract deals altogether. Public reports indicate that at least two occasions where Fubo decided not to renew its contracts—in July 2020 with Warner Media (which broadcasts NBA and MLB games), and more recently in July 2021 with the A&E family of networks (which telecasts popular shows like "Pawn Stars," "Hoarders,"

and "Super Nanny").

- 8. Additionally, the Company gave a wholly unrealistic portrayal of its prospects for entering the online sport wagering business in connection with its December 1, 2020 announcement of Balto Sports. The December 2020 announcement and related disclosures misleadingly claimed that Balto Sports was the first step in entering the online sports wagering, thereby boosting market expectations and inflating the price of Fubo's common stock. The stock price increased from \$26.74 at closing on December 1, 2020 to open at \$28.50 on December 2, 2020, an increase of 6%. On the same day, ROTH Capital analyst Darren Aftahi increased his price target for Fubo from \$29 to \$36, as a result of Fubo's Balto Sports acquisition. Unbeknownst to investors, the Company lacked the financial wherewith and internal expertise needed to scale its sports wagering business. One market analyst later described Fubo's strategy as "putting a lipstick on a pig." Former employees of Fubo have corroborated this reality in acknowledging that Fubo had neither the financing nor the expertise to navigate the complex web of state regulatory approvals needed to engage in an online sports wagering business.
- 9. Investors gradually learned the truth about Fubo's financial condition and prospects through a series of research reports, beginning on December 23, 2020. These reports first disclosed, among other material information, that (i) Fubo's offering of products would be subject to significant cost escalation; (ii) Fubo could not successfully compete and perform as a sports book operator and lacked the ability and resources needed to capitalize on its online sports wagering opportunity; (iii) Fubo's user data and inventory was not differentiated to allow Fubo to achieve its long-term advertising growth goals; (iv) Fubo's valuation was substantially overstated in light of its total revenue and subscription levels; and (v) Fubo did not possess significant advantages over its peers as it publicly touted. As detailed herein, these material facts rendered Defendants' statements during the Class Period materially false and misleading.

- 10. Following these disclosures, the price of Fubo's common stock fell precipitously, by 54% from a close of \$62.00 on December 22, 2020 to a close of \$24.24 on January 4, 2021. As a result, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant damages.
- 11. Post-Class Period developments bolster Plaintiff's allegations. Fubo announced its Q4 2020 and 2020 year-end financial results on March 2, 2021. The Company reported annual losses that reached \$570 million; adjusted losses of \$2.47 per share were much wider than the reported loss of \$1.07 per share for the same quarter during the previous year. On this news, the Company's shares dropped 18% from \$41.89 on March 2, 2021 to close at \$34.14 on March 3, 2021. The Company's guidance for Q1 2021 further disappointed some analysts and led investment bank BMO Capital Markets to trim its price target from \$50 to \$45, noting that the guidance implies more moderate growth in average revenue per user, along with dampened gross margins. Fubo's stock price continued to decline another 37% in March 2021, closing at \$22.12 on March 31, 2021. Even to this day, Fubo's stock price has not returned to pre-disclosure levels.

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 12. The claims asserted herein arise under Section 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).
- 13. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and Section 27 of the Exchange Act.
- 14. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the alleged misstatements and omissions were made or omitted, and the subsequent damages took place in this Judicial District. Pursuant to Fubo's most recent quarterly report (SEC Form 10-Q), as of May 7, 2021, there were 140,465,829 shares outstanding of the Company's common stock. Fubo's common stock trades on the New York Stock

Exchange ("NYSE"). Accordingly, there are presumably hundreds, if not thousands, of investors in Fubo's common stock located within the United States, some of whom undoubtedly reside in this Judicial District.

15. In connection with the acts alleged in this Amended Complaint, Fubo, directly or indirectly, used the instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including interstate wires, U.S. Postal Service mail, wireless spectrum, and the national securities exchange.

# **PARTIES**

#### A. Plaintiff

16. Lead Plaintiff Nordine Aamchoune ("Plaintiff") is a resident of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. As set forth in his Certification (ECF No. 21-3), previously filed with this Court and incorporated by reference herein, Plaintiff acquired shares of Fubo during the Class Period, at artificially inflated prices, and was damaged by the federal securities law violations and false and/or misleading statements and/or material omissions alleged herein.

# B. <u>Defendants</u>

- 17. Defendant FuboTV, Inc. ("Fubo" or "Company") is a Florida corporation with a principal place of business at 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Fubo's shares trade on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "FUBO."
- 18. Defendant David Gandler is the co-founder of the Company and has served as the Company's CEO and a Director on the Company's Board of Directors since April 1, 2020.
- 19. Defendant Edgar M. Bronfman Jr. has served as the Company's Executive Chairman since April 29, 2020 when he replaced John Textor. Defendant Bronfman was previously the chairman and CEO of Warner Music.
- 20. Defendant Simone Nardi has served as the Company's CFO since May 31, 2020. On May 30, 2020, the Company appointed Defendant Nardi to serve as its Chief Financial Officer

effective May 31, 2020. Previously, Defendant Nardi had served as a CFO of NBC Universal's business development division where he assumed a lead role in launching Hulu.

- 21. Defendants Gandler, Bronfman, and Nardi are referred to herein as the "Individual Defendants." The Individual Defendants, together with Fubo, are collectively referred to herein as the "Defendants."
- 22. The Individual Defendants possessed the authority to control the contents of statements made by Fubo in the Company's reports to the SEC, press releases and presentations to securities analysts, money and portfolio managers, and institutional investors, *i.e.*, the market. The Individual Defendants were provided with copies of the Company's reports and press releases alleged in the Amended Complaint to be misleading prior to, or shortly after, their issuance, and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Due to their positions with Fubo and their access to Fubo's material information that was unavailable to the public, the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts described herein were not disclosed to and were being concealed from investors. The Individual Defendants are liable for the false statements and omissions alleged herein.

#### NON-PARTY CONFIDENTIAL WITNESSES

23. The allegations made herein are further supported by the first-hand, personal knowledge of three non-party confidential witnesses ("CW #\_"). These confidential witnesses are senior former Fubo employees who provided facts and information from various departments within the Company. As detailed below, the confidential witnesses each served in relevant positions at Fubo which provided them with access to the information and relevant knowledge of the facts they are alleged to possess during the course of their employment.

24. The confidential witnesses' information also corroborates information from other sources received and/or reviewed by Plaintiff's counsel. The confidential witnesses are designated sequentially based upon where they are first identified in the Amended Complaint.

# A. CW #1

- 25. CW #1 initially joined Fubo as a Triage Engineer in June 2017 and worked at the Company's New York City headquarters. CW #1 reported to Senior Technical Program Manager, who in turn reported to Vice President of Product and Innovation. After the departure of the Senior Technical Program Manager, CW #1 reported to Senior Project Manager/Manager of the Platform Operations. As a Triage Engineer at Fubo, CW #1 acted as a conduit between the Company's customer care and engineering teams. As a part of this position, CW #1 also helped resolve technical problems across Fubo's production platforms.
- 26. In January 2018, CW #1 became a Project Manager. In this capacity, CW #1 coordinated projects within the Company's engineering team. CW #1's work primarily involved onboarding new channels onto Fubo's platform. As a part of CW #1's duties, CW #1 attended meetings with content providers and Fubo. According to CW #1, these meetings were also attended by Senior Vice President Head of Content Strategy and Acquisition. While in a Project Manager role within the Company's engineering team, CW #1 had relevant understanding and internal knowledge of Fubo's content provider contracts, racking of user growth, and the onboarding of new channels. CW #1 left the Company in February 2020.

#### B. CW #2

27. CW #2 joined Fubo in August 2017 as Senior Director of Engineering and worked at the Company's New York City headquarters. In CW #2's role as a Senior Director of Engineering, CW #2 oversaw the Company's video services, which included managing software teams and system engineers, site reliability engineers, and live-streaming engineers. CW #2 reported to the Chief

Technology Officer. While in a role that oversaw various employee-teams related to Fubo's software, live-streaming and system engineers, CW #2 had relevant understanding and internal knowledge of the inner workings of Fubo's video service technology and platforms. CW #2 left the Company in July 2020.

#### C. CW 3

28. CW #3 worked as a Quality Assurance Specialist from February 2019 to August 2019 at Fubo's New York City headquarters. CW #3 reported to Senior Director of Engineering. In this role as a Quality Assurance Specialist, CW #3 was entrusted with improving Fubo's platform releases. CW #3 was on the Company's web team and conducted testing for Fubo's Apple TV application and helped create test plans for its launch. CW #3 also worked with the Quality Assurance team for troubleshooting any issues that came up. Being involved in platform development, CW #3 had relevant understanding and internal knowledge about Fubo's application features, any drawbacks and an understanding of other similar applications. CW #3 was laid off by the Company in August 2019.

# **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

#### A. Industry and Company Background

29. Founded in 2015, Fubo is a sports-geared Virtual Multichannel Video Programming Distributor ("vMVPD"), offering subscribers access to thousands of live sporting events as well as news and entertainment content. First launched as a soccer streaming service, Fubo changed to an all-sports provider in 2017, and then to its current vMVPD format. Fubo's streaming service is available in the United States, Canada, and Spain, and consists of different subscription level plans offering different channel packages. In its regulatory filings and public statements, Fubo positions itself as a content distributor at the intersection of three "megatrends": cord-cutting, connected TV advertising, and online sports wagering.

- 30. vMVPDs, like Fubo, aggregate live and on-demand television content for delivery over the internet. Unlike traditional cable television or satellite providers, Fubo does not supply its own data transport infrastructure (e.g., the fiberoptic cable) and instead, relies on subscribers to maintain their own internet connections to access its service. vMVPDs offer service and product bundles to subscribers, offering television channels at a lower monthly rate than offered by traditional cable television/satellite providers. There are currently 271 online video service vMVPDs that provide viewers with content from broadcast and cable network as well as streaming providers. Internet-based streaming services and corresponding distribution platforms have progressed at a staggering pace, allowing for faster and cost-effective transmissions. According to industry experts, nearly six million subscribers dropped their traditional pay TV services in the third quarter of 2019 alone (what is commonly known as "cord-cutting"). In light of this trend, companies such as Fubo aggressively sought to capitalize on this growing new market.
- 31. In recent years, platforms like Fubo have gained popularity over legacy set-top cable boxes and satellite providers, as a way to view live television. For example, Dish Network first introduced its service known as "Sling TV" in 2015, through which it offered a selection of popular cable networks delivered *via* mobile apps and other digital media players, or over the internet. By 2018, AT&T, Hulu, Sony, and YouTube TV had all entered the market as vMVPDs. S&P Global Markets Intelligence media research group reports that the number of virtual multichannel service households will hit 15.3 million by the end of 2022.

# B. The FaceBank Merger Provides Needed Capital

32. In the lead up to Fubo's merger with FaceBank Group Inc. ("FaceBank"), the Company was burning through cash at an alarming rate. As indicated in the Company's October 5, 2020 S-1 amended Registration Statement. Fubo was generating significant losses as shown by the ballooning working capital deficits.

	Year Ended December 31,			
		2019		2018
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		45470 C000 C000 C00		
Net loss	\$	(173,701)	\$	(129,312)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:				
Depreciation and amortization		616		440
Stock-based compensation		1,511		952
Change in fair value of convertible note derivatives		-		(4,697)
Non-cash interest expense		160		1,032
(Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt		(102)		4,171
Amortization of debt issuance costs		43		32
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
Accounts receivable		(2,108)		(3,211)
Prepaid affiliate rights		242		14,681
Prepaid expenses and other current and long-term assets		(625)		(294)
Accounts payable		14,490		20,093
Accrued expenses and other current and long-term liabilities		52,612		16,526
Deferred revenue		5,007		2,540
Deferred rent		(154)		(106)
Net cash used in operating activities		(102,009)		(77,153)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Capital expenditures		(136)		(434)
Net cash used in investing activities		(136)		(434)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Proceeds from borrowings		16,150		3,050
Proceeds from term loan		10,130		25,000
Repayment of borrowings		(5,000)		-
Issuance cost related to term loan		(-,,		(204)
Proceeds from issuance of convertible preferred stock, net		90.549		46.294
Exercises of stock options		174		84
Net cash provided by financing activities		101,873		74,224
NET CHANCE IN CACH CACH FORWALENTS AND DESTRICTED CACH		(272)		(2.252)
NET CHANGE IN CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH		(272)		(3,363)
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH, BEGINNING OF PERIOD		15,911		19,274
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH, END OF PERIOD	\$	15,639	S	15,911

33. In March 2020, Fubo announced its merger with FaceBank, a leading virtual entertainment company, focused on development, protection, and activation of the personal digital likeness assets of celebrities and consumers, for use in artificial intelligence, entertainment, personal productivity and social networking.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the merger agreement between FaceBank and Fubo, Fubo became a wholly owned subsidiary of FaceBank, and FaceBank was renamed to FuboTV Inc. Through this merger, completed on April 1, 2020, Fubo "obtained a secured revolving line of credit of \$100 million" (the "revolver") for the benefit of FuboTV as an "inducement to the willingness of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FaceBank's prior name was Pulse Evolution Group, which gained popularity for computer-generated holographic images of Tupac Shakur at the 2012 Coachella concert and Michael Jackson at the 2014 Billboard Music Awards. Pulse's technology also was used for digital visual effects in such movies as "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith," "Rango," and "Transformers."

the FuboTV" to enter into the merger agreement. At the time of the merger, FaceBank's stock was traded over the counter under the ticker "FBNK."

- 34. More interestingly, by virtue of the merger, Fubo was able to take advantage of a \$100 million revolving credit line extended by FaceBank. The \$100 million credit line was extended during the COVID-19 pandemic and was no small feat given the compromised financial conditions of both Fubo and FaceBank. According to a December 30, 2020 report issued by Kerrisdale Capital (the "Kerrisdale Report"), FaceBank secured the revolver from a Luxembourg registered investment holding company identified as HLEE Finance S.a.r.l ("HLEE"), that likewise does not generate any income. As per HLEE's 2019 annual filing, its main assets are €12.5 million euros worth of FaceBank stock and €6 million euros in cash. However, the relationship between FaceBank and HLEE have not been disclosed in any of FaceBank's or Fubo's filings.
- 35. While news of the line of credit was featured prominently in the merger, according to the *Kerrisdale Report*, the loan's likely purpose was "to project calm to vendors, employees, and programmers that even during a pandemic and the cancellation of sports globally, Fubo had access to liquidity." However, Fubo never drew on the facility beyond the initial advance at the merger close while continuing to sell equity and take on expensive borrowings in the months that followed—which the *Kerrisdale Report* found to be quite "odd."

# C. Fubo's Business Model

36. Fubo's revenues are almost entirely derived from the sale of subscription services and advertising in the United States. The *primary* source of Fubo to generate revenue is by selling subscriptions to users for its platform. The Company offers two sets of packages of its viewers to choose from. Fubo's "Starter Pack" is priced at \$64.99 per month while the "Elite Pack" is for \$79.99 per month. Additionally, Fubo offers add-ons such as "Latino Quarterly" for \$33 per month. Fubo earns additional revenue if a subscriber opts for features like "Cloud Storage," which comes in two

sizes, "Family Share" feature and "Unlimited Screens." In their quarterly results for Q3 2020 announced on November 16, 2020, Fubo reported \$61.2 million in total revenue, of which \$53.3 million, or 87%, were derived from subscriptions and related add-ons.

- 37. Fubo also earns revenue through advertising fees. Fubo has commercial ad breaks during live programming and the frequency and length of these ads are determined by the content provider. Advertising revenue is an important source for the company and is important for its future growth. In Q3 2020, Fubo reported advertising revenue of \$7.5 million, which was 12.25 % of its total revenue.
- 38. The disparity between the amount of Fubo's subscription and advertising revenue is a function of the structural nature of Fubo's platform. According to the *Kerrisdale Report*, "Fubo is by orders of magnitude too small and it is merely a content aggregator, not a content producer. After moving slowly at first, content broadcasters are now leaning in and selling inventory they own programmatically." With nothing to differentiate itself, Fubo does not have any levers to pull to improve its pricing. The *Kerrisdale Report* stated that unlike Fubo, "Hulu's ownership of content, its ability to deliver massive reach, its direct relationships with brands and advertisers all contributes to its ability to sell out of inventory, which in turn allows it to charge a premium. Fubo has no ability to do any of this. Fubo cannot guarantee X number of impressions on Shark week because it doesn't own the content and has relatively few relationships with brands and agencies. Fubo sells its inventory through private marketplace (PMP) deals where, as the Trade Desk<sup>2</sup> executive put it, agencies are bidding on "leftover" inventory priced at a discount to [programmatic guaranteed] PG deals."

# D. Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period

39. On March 23, 2020, Fubo issued a press release, attached to Fubo's 8-K filing with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As described in the *Kerrisdale Report*, Trade Desk "is one of the largest demand side platform operators in the world offering agencies, aggregators, and their advertisers best-in-class technology. They are a leading player when it comes to Connected TV (CTV) advertising."

the SEC the same day, entitled Facebank Group And FuboTV Announce Definitive Merger Agreement - Combined Company To Be Named FuboTV, Inc., which quoted Defendant Gandler stating the following, in relevant part, regarding the Company's capabilities:

The business combination of FaceBank Group and fuboTV accelerates our ability to build a category defining company and supports our goal to provide consumers with a technology-driven cable TV replacement service for the whole family. With our growing businesses in the U.S., and recent beta launches in Canada and Europe, fuboTV is well-positioned to achieve its goal of becoming a world-leading live TV streaming platform for premium sports, news and entertainment content. In the current COVID-19 environment, stay-at-home stocks make perfect sense - we plan to accelerate our timing to uplist to a major exchange as soon as practicable. We look forward to working with John and his team of creative visionaries.<sup>3</sup>

40. On April 2, 2020, FaceBank and Fubo issued a joint press entitled FaceBank Group and fuboTV Announce Completion of Merger - Combined Company to Be Named fuboTV, Inc., which quoted Defendant Gandler, stating the following, in relevant part, regarding the Company's capabilities:

With today's closing, fuboTV is well-positioned to redefine the virtual MVPD space. Technology-driven cable TV replacement services are more important than ever, especially at this time when people are staying safe at home watching television for needed information, entertainment and escape.

- 41. On May 4, 2020, Fubo issued its first post-merger letter to shareholders informing them about its select audited financial results for the year ending December 31, 2019. In their premerger results, Fubo reported a total revenue of \$146.5 million for 2019, with subscription revenue of \$133.3 million, and advertising revenue of \$12.4 million, accounting for 8% of its total revenue. The Company reported its Average Revenue Per User ("ARPU") at \$53.80 in 2019.
- 42. On May 20, 2020, at the 15th Annual Needham Virtual Technology & Media Conference, Defendant Gandler admitted that sports in fact does lower Fubo's customer acquisition costs. Two months later, in July 2020, Fubo did not renew its contract with Warner Media, losing access to sports broadcast networks such as TNT and TBS, which telecast NBA and MLB games.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all emphasis herein and hereinafter has been added.

43. During the conference, Defendant Gandler also admitted Fubo's shortcomings in the advertising department. In response to a question, Defendant Gandler stated:

Advertising is a growing component of our business model. I think it's important to clarify that we have a dual revenue stream...Ours is subscription and ads so it allows us to really grow our ARPU. So, advertising in 2018 was roughly 5% of total revenue. In 2019, it was just north of 8% of total revenue. We do not have an ad sales team but we're obviously thinking about how to start looking at direct ad sales as a way to continue to drive not only revenues but also our CPMs<sup>4</sup> and sponsorship capabilities given some of the unit content that we [technical difficulty] introducing.

- 44. On May 29, 2020, Fubo—then known as FaceBank Group, Inc.—filed its yearly report on Form 10-K with the SEC for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019 (the "2019 Annual Report"). The 2019 Annual Report was signed by Defendants Gandler and Bronfman. Appended as Exhibits 32.1 and 31.1 to the 2019 Annual Report were signed certifications pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX Certifications"), wherein Defendant Gandler certified that "the [2019 Annual Report] does not contain any untrue statements of a material fact" and that "the information included in the [2019 Annual Report] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations and cash flows of the [Company]" in compliance with Section 13(a) or Section 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 45. The 2019 Annual Report touted the synergies that the combination between FaceBank and Fubo purportedly created, stating as follows:

The Company is a leading digital entertainment company, combining fuboTV's direct-to-consumer live TV streaming platform with FaceBank's technology-driven IP in sports, movies and live performances. This business combination, operating as fuboTV, Inc., will create a content delivery platform for traditional and future-form IP. fuboTV plans to leverage FaceBank's IP sharing relationships with leading celebrities and other digital technologies to enhance its already robust sports and entertainment offerings.

Since the Merger, while we continue our previous business operations, we are principally focused on offering consumers a leading live TV streaming platform for sports, news and entertainment through fuboTV. fuboTV revenues are almost

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Cost per thousand ("CPM"), also called cost per mille, is a marketing term used to denote the price of 1,000 advertisement impressions on one web page.

entirely derived from the sale of subscription services and advertising in the United States, though fuboTV has started to assess expansion opportunities into international markets, with operations in Canada and the launch in late 2018 of its first ex-North America offering of streaming entertainment, to consumers in Spain.

- 46. The 2019 Annual Report also listed various "competitive strengths" that Fubo "believe[s] that [their] revenue and subscriber growth are a result of," including: "Comprehensive Sports, News & Entertainment Content," "Technology-driven, Character-based Entertainment IP," "Intuitive User Experience," "Proprietary Technology with Enhanced Features" and "Delivering Significant Value to Our Subscribers."
- 47. On July 6, 2020, Fubo (then under the name FaceBank) filed its quarterly report on SEC Form 10-Q for the first fiscal quarter 2020 ("Q1 2020 Report"). Appended as Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 and 32.1 to the Q1 2020 Report were signed SOX Certifications, wherein Defendants Gandler and Nardi, respectively, certified that "the [Q1 2020 Report] does not contain any untrue statements of a material fact" and that "the information included in the [Q1 2020 Report] fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the [Company]" in compliance with Section 13(a) or Section 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 48. In connection with the Q1 2020 Report, the Company issued a press release, summarizing the Company's financial and operational results, as well as a letter to shareholders released on July 8, 2020 from Defendant Gandler. In the letter to shareholders, Defendant Gandler stated, regarding Fubo's strategy and focus:

We believe fuboTV is at the forefront of the streaming revolution and has a significant advantage not only over peers in the vMVPD space but also over traditional cable television. We offer cord-cutters a total cable TV replacement with top Nielsen-ranked sports, news and entertainment channels. What sets fuboTV apart is our internally built tech stack that keeps us innovating ahead of the industry. With premium features like 4K streaming, personalized live TV recommendations and recent app updates that integrate live video into the product experience, we believe a fuboTV subscription offers consumers the best value of any other live TV streaming platform. We believe consumers will continue to choose streaming over traditional pay television because of this more personalized, premium viewing experience that is also less expensive.

fuboTV had an extremely productive Q1, despite a complete shutdown of sports, and we have made several significant recent announcements that highlight the competitive strength of our company and further differentiate us in the marketplace. While we expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will have lasting effects on consumer behavior and live television viewing, vMVPDs are also a more affordable alternative to pay TV, which, we believe, in this current economic climate, further accelerates adoption. We believe we are well positioned as a leader in the industry.

- 49. In the July 8, 2020 Press Release, the Company reported \$46.4 million in subscription revenue, with the advertising component contributing \$4.1 million. The Company reported its ARPU at \$54.16. The Company ended the quarter with 287,316 paid subscribers, and issued a glowing forecast stating: "We expect to drive revenue growth, continue to diversify our revenue mix, make progress on our path to profitability, and that our losses will decrease as a percentage of revenue."
- 50. On August 10, 2020, the Company changed its name to FuboTV Inc., and as of May 1, 2020, the Company's trading symbol on the NYSE was changed to "FUBO."
- 51. On August 13, 2020, Fubo filed its quarterly report on SEC Form 10-Q for the second fiscal quarter 2020 ("Q2 2020 Report"). Appended as Exhibits 31.1, 31.2 and 32.1 to the Q2 2020 Report were signed SOX Certifications, wherein Defendants Gandler and Nardi, respectively, certified that "the [Q2 2020 Report] does not contain any untrue statements of a material fact" and that "the information included in the [Q2 2020 Report] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations and cash flows of the [Company]" in compliance with Section 13(a) or Section 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 52. In their Q2 2020 Report, under the "Risk Factors," Fubo readily admitted that "We have already failed to make minimum guarantee payments to certain key programmers and may not be in a position to make similar payments in the future. If we do not make these payments, then we may lose access to such content, which in turn may further depress subscriber acquisition or retention, cause other programmers to exercise termination rights due to the content mix available through our service, or impact our ability to obtain content from other programmers."

53. In connection with the Q2 2020 Report, the Company issued a press release, summarizing the Company's financial and operational results. The press release quoted Defendant Gandler, stating:

We believe consumers will continue to choose streaming over traditional pay television, especially in the current economic climate because of its more personalized, premium viewing experience. *Macro trends towards streaming, combined with our strong second quarter results and continued momentum, reinforce our confidence in our business and the vMVPD space.* Looking ahead to Q3, with the gradual return of sports, we anticipate an increase in subscribers, viewership and that our portion of revenue derived from advertising will grow. At the close of Q3 we expect paid subscribers to reach 340,000 - 350,000, which will be an increase of 20% year-over-year. The growth of streaming is one of the most significant changes to television, and television advertising, in the last several decades. *fuboTV is at the forefront of the streaming revolution and we are excited for existing and new investors to join us on this journey.* 

- 54. In the same Press Release, Company reported revenues of \$44.2 million, with subscription revenue of \$39.5 million and advertising revenue of \$4.3 million. The ARPU came out at \$54.79 and the Company ended the quarter with 286,126 subscribers.
- 55. Also, in connection with the Q2 2020 Report, the Company furnished a letter to shareholders dated August 13, 2020, from Defendant Gandler. In the letter to shareholders, Defendant Gandler reiterated that Fubo was "at the forefront of the streaming revolution," and also providing the following summary:

The strength of the streaming business during the pandemic is a clear sign that vMVPDs have a bright future. fuboTV's solid second quarter validated our belief that consumers are seeking lower cost alternatives to traditional television. Our streaming hours grew over the prior year despite a near total shutdown of sports. This is primarily a result of fuboTV's expanded programming offering for the entire family combined with product innovations that deliver a premium viewing experience not available through traditional television. We expect streaming hours to grow as sports return.

56. Reiterating its earlier claims, in the Shareholder Letter dated August 13, 2020, Defendant Gandler stated:

"We continue to believe fuboTV is at the forefront of the streaming revolution. fuboTV is the leading sports-first, live TV streaming platform, offering subscribers

access to tens of thousands of live sporting events annually as well as leading news and entertainment content. At the core of our offering is our proprietary technology platform optimized for live TV and sports viewership. Our proprietary technology stack has enabled us to regularly offer new features and functionality."

57. On September 15, 2020, the Company furnished another letter to shareholders addressed from Defendant Gandler, in which Defendant Gandler stated, regarding Fubo's business model and future growth strategy:

[W]e continue to believe fuboTV is at the forefront of the streaming TV revolution. fuboTV is the leading sports-first, live TV streaming platform, offering subscribers access to tens of thousands of live sporting events annually as well as leading news and entertainment content. We offer a broad mix of 100+ channels, including 43 of the top 50 Nielsen-ranked networks across sports, news and entertainment (Primetime A18-49), making fuboTV a leading cable TV replacement product for the entire household. Our retention rate has remained high during the pandemic as customers have found a diverse range of content on the platform to satisfy their needs.

At the core of our offering is our proprietary technology platform optimized for live TV and sports viewership. Our proprietary technology stack has enabled us to regularly offer new features and functionality. For example, we were the first virtual multichannel video programming distributor (vMVPD) to stream in 4K resolution. We also offer multi-view on Apple TV, which enables subscribers to watch two live streams simultaneously, as well as the ability to watch select sports content from multiple camera angles.

\* \* \*

Furthermore, we believe fuboTV's sports package is unparalleled in the marketplace. fuboTV offers more than 50,000 live sporting events each year and is the only vMVPD streaming 11 Thursday Night Football (FOX) games in 4K this season. The start of the NFL season has been significant for fuboTV. It's been widely publicized that television ratings declined nearly 13% for the NFL's 2020 Kickoff Game on Thursday, September 10. fuboTV, on the other hand, has achieved record viewership with our NFL carriage. On Sunday, September 13, our viewing hours doubled year-over-year and reached one million hours for the first time. Cord-cutters are clearly embracing streaming platforms for sports viewing.

58. On August 11, 2020, Fubo filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-1 signed by Defendants Gandler, Nardi, and Bronfman, relating to the proposed secondary public offering of common stock. On September 15, 2020, October 1, 2020, and October 5, 2020, Fubo

filed revised versions of the Registration Statement on Forms S-1/A, each of which was signed by Defendants Gandler and Nardi. On October 7, 2020, the Registration Statement was declared effective by the SEC. The Prospectus Summary was incorporated into and formed part of the Registration Statement filed on October 9, 2020.

- 59. Fubo offered to sell to the public 18.3 million common shares (excluding the underwriters' option to purchase an additional 2.75 million common shares), for \$10 per share. FuboTV closed its public offering of 19,706,708 shares of common stock on October 13, 2020, including the full exercise of the underwriters' option, generating \$ 197 million in gross offering proceeds.
- 60. The Prospectus Summary contained materially false and misleading statements relating to Fubo's business model, stating:

Our business model is 'come for the sports, stay for the entertainment.' This translates to leveraging sporting events to acquire Subscribers at lower acquisition costs, given the built-in demand for sports. We then leverage our technology and data to drive higher engagement and induce retentive behaviors such as favoriting channels, recording shows, and increasing discovery through our proprietary machine learning recommendations engine. Next, we look to monetize our growing base of highly engaged subscribers by driving higher average revenue per user (ARPU).

61. The Registration Statement also identified Fubo's "Competitive Strengths," which purportedly contributed to Fubo's past revenue and subscriber growth:

# **Our Competitive Strengths**

We believe that fuboTV Pre-Merger's revenue and subscriber growth are a result of the following competitive strengths:

• Comprehensive Sports, News & Entertainment Offering. While we continue to attract consumers with our extensive premium sports content, we believe our increasingly broad and deep news and entertainment content offerings enhances total viewership and retention of our users as a pay TV replacement. We believe we will continue to optimize our content offering by identifying and executing strategic deals that best suit our consumers' preferences.

- Delivering Significant Value to Our Subscribers. We seek to provide a flexible product offering, delivering leading bundles for consumers that best meet their target price point. fuboTV's base package is less expensive than traditional cable or satellite options and includes a broad array of 100+ channels across sports, news and entertainment.
- Proprietary Technology and First-Party Data. Because we design, develop and operate all core segments of our platform, we are able to capture and analyze how our subscribers engage our offering. These unique data insights allow us to better understand and continually adjust our product and strategy to better meet the needs of our subscribers.
- Intuitive User Experience. We are continuing to innovate to give subscribers a premium viewing experience that they are unable to find with cable TV and are regularly first-to-market with new product features. Our product is highly customizable and provides an optimized experience for personalized live streaming, including capabilities such as unique user profiles, multiple angle and screen viewing for sports, favorites lists, a dynamic recommendation engine and Cloud DVR offerings.
- Efficiency of Cloud-based OTT model. fubo TV's capital-efficient cloud-based OTT model doesn't require us to devote capex to procuring, maintaining inventory of and delivering superfluous, and often outdated, proprietary set-top boxes to customers that do not want or need them. Furthermore, our proprietary technology infrastructure is highly scalable, which we expect to provide ongoing cost and margin advantages as we grow.
- 62. Regarding the Company's growth, the Registration Statement provided, in relevant

part:

Our growth strategy is to acquire subscribers who are attracted to our premium sports offering and can find with us a compelling sports, news and entertainment viewing alternative to a traditional pay TV service. We actively engage those subscribers by providing a seamless pay TV replacement through a personalized easy-to-use streaming product at a significantly lower cost than traditional pay TV providers. We then monetize our engaged audience through subscription fees and our digital advertising offering. *Today, the vast majority of our revenue is generated from monthly subscriptions. We have improved our margins, as well as our engagement levels,* by enabling subscribers to select attachments such as Cloud DVR Plus and Family Share and to subscribe to premium channel packages like Sports Plus with NFL RedZone and International Sports Plus. *We believe a significant opportunity for fuboTV is to allow advertisers to access our audience by leveraging our technology, data, and measurability to drive returns on advertising spend.* 

63. Rather than disclose the truth, the Registration Statement highlighted the Company's

purported success in growing advertising revenue, stating, in pertinent part:

#### Advertisers

We believe our leading, independent live TV streaming platform offers a unique opportunity to advertisers. As cord cutting continues and traditional linear TV viewers decline, advertisers are increasingly allocating their ad budgets to OTT platforms to reach these audiences. fuboTV's sports-first live TV platform offers advertisers a growing and increasingly valuable live audience and provides unskippable ad inventory on high quality content. We believe our growing subscriber base and increasing household viewing hours makes the platform highly attractive to advertisers. Advertisers also benefit from combining traditional TV advertising formats with the advantages of digital advertising including measurability, relevancy and interactivity.

- 64. The Registration Statement likewise stated: "We believe our premium content and industry-leading consumer experience uniquely position us to rapidly grow our advertising business."
- 65. On November 10, 2020, Fubo issued a press release announcing financial results for the third quarter ending September 30, 2020. The November 10th press release touted the Company's results, stating that the Company "delivered the strongest quarter in its history and exceeded previously raised guidance with solid growth in revenue, subscription and engagement." Defendant Gandler reiterated in the November 10th press release these audacious claims, stating that Fubo had "the strongest quarter in FuboTV's history, exceeding targets in all of [its] key metrics." Similarly, Defendant Bronfman echoed these positive sentiments, claiming that:

We believe that fuboTV sits firmly at the intersection of three megatrends: the secular decline of traditional TV viewership, the shift of TV ad dollars to connected TVs and online sports wagering, a market which we intend to enter. As a result, we believe our growth opportunities are numerous. Our optimism in the future of fuboTV and the live TV streaming business has never been stronger.

66. In a shareholder letter, signed by Defendant Bronfman and released on the same day, November 10, 2020, the Company touted its "proprietary data and technology platform" as purportedly being the key to its success and future growth, stating, in relevant part:

Our financial model is driven by strong unit economics. We expect margin improvement to continue over time, aided by a number of initiatives. This

includes the growth of advertising on our platform along with strong attachment rates on value-added services, such as cloud DVR storage and the ability to stream on multiple devices.

We believe fuboTV sits firmly at the intersection of three industry megatrends: the secular decline of traditional TV viewership, the shift of TV ad dollars to connected TVs and online sports wagering. Our strong subscriber growth indicates consumers are cutting the cord faster than ever before, and our increased viewer engagement has driven fuboTV's ad sales growth.

We've previously said that we see the online wagering space - a market expected to reach \$155 billion by 2024 according to Zion Market Research - as complementary to our sports-first live TV streaming platform. We believe there is a flywheel opportunity with video content and interactivity. As our cable TV replacement product is sports-focused, we believe a significant portion of our subscribers would be interested in online wagering, creating a unique opportunity to drive higher subscriber engagement and open up additional revenue opportunities. Simply put, we expect wagering will lead to more viewing, and this increased engagement will lead to higher ad monetization, better subscriber retention and a reduction in subscriber acquisition costs.

Therefore, we are excited to announce that fuboTV intends to expand into the online sports wagering market. Our goal with wagering is to develop a new revenue stream for fuboTV, and one which we believe will be an important contributor to our business.

We expect to share more tactical details as appropriate. And, of course, we expect to continue to grow our subscribers which will positively impact any decision we make on wagering.

- 67. As to Fubo's financial performance, the November 10th shareholder letter provided certain financial highlights, including information pertaining to the Company's subscription rate and growth, stating, in relevant part:
  - [The Company's] [r]evenues for the third quarter 2020 were \$61.2 million, a 47% increase year-over-year on a pro forma basis, or +71% excluding licensing revenue from FaceBank AG. This growth ahead of guidance, was driven by continued subscriber expansion, an increase in subscription Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) and growth of advertising sales:

- O Subscription revenue increased 64% year-over-year to \$53.3 million.<sup>5</sup>
- O Advertising revenue increased 153% year-over-year to \$7.5 million.
- Paid subscribers at quarter end totaled 455,000, an increase of 58% yearover-year.
- Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) per month was \$67.70, up 14% year-over-year.
- Total content hours streamed by fuboTV users (paid and free trial) increased 83% year-over-year to 133.3 million hours.
- Monthly active users (MAUs) watched 121 hours per month on average in the quarter, an increase of 20% year-over-year.

\* \* \*

- We use adjusted contribution margin to measure the variable costs against subscriber revenue: adjusted contribution margin was positive 16.1% in Q3 2020, up from 0.5% in Q3 2019. The improvement was driven by growth in subscription ARPU, growth in advertising ARPU and a reduction in the average cost per user (ACPU), mainly driven by lower per-subscriber content expenses. Q3 2020 adjusted contribution margin benefitted in part from the unusual timing of some content deal negotiations in July. Adjusted for this unusual, one-time impact, the Q3 2020 adjusted contribution margin would have been approximately 10.5%. Please refer to the reconciliation of revenue to adjusted contribution margin in the non-GAAP information in the tables accompanying this letter.
- 68. As to its financial guidance, Fubo raised its Q4 2020 guidance, stating that it expected "Q4 revenues to be \$80-85 million, a 51% to 60% increase year-over-year. We also expect to end the fourth quarter with 500,000-510,000 paid subscribers, an increase of 58% to 62% year-over-year." Additionally, FuboTV represented that expected full year 2020 revenue to be "\$244-248 million, an increase of over 65% year-over-year." And its full year 2021 revenue to be "\$415-435 million, an increase of over 70% year-over-year."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Company's subscription revenue for Q3 2020 differs in its SEC Q3 10-Q filed on November 16, 2020, where it states "[d]uring the three months ended September 30, 2020, we recognized revenues of \$61.2 million, primarily related to \$53.3 million of subscription revenue." (emphasis added).

69. The November 10th letter to shareholders ended with a summary of the Company's claims of future revenue and subscription growth and promising growth of advertising, stating, in relevant part:

The growth of advertising on our platform along with strong attachment rates on value-added services, such as cloud DVR storage and the ability to stream on multiple devices, continue to improve margins. Furthermore, we believe fuboTV's differentiation in the marketplace - sports-focused programming and a tech-first user experience - firmly positions the company for long-term growth. We are also excited about the potential growth and revenue opportunities around our intended expansion into online sports wagering.

70. On the same day, November 10, 2020, the Company hosted an earnings call with financial market analysts to discuss its financial results and operations with Defendants Gandler and Nardi present. During the earnings call, Defendant Gandler touted the Company's results, stating as follows:

And from an execution standpoint Q3 was by far the strongest quarter in the company's history. Our results have exceeded previously raised guidance with solid growth across every KPI we track. Revenues were up 47% to \$61 million, that's well ahead of the guidance range we provided \$52 million to \$55 million. Our business is really comprised of two components. Subscription revenue which was up 64%, and advertising revenue, which was up in amazing 153%. Ad revenue for the quarter exceeded 12%, and to put that into context 2019 Ad revenue represented roughly about 8%.

So you can see why we're so excited about the quarter and about our guidance in Q4 and for full-year 2021. Paid subscribers at quarter end totaled 455,000 and that's 58% above the 288,000 last year. Net additions came in at 167,000 that's up almost 100% year-over-year.

\* \* \*

And advertising sales, which I've already highlighted earlier, clearly plays an important role in margin expansion. At the end of the day, we made some really bold moves in the quarter and that really speaks to our ability to leverage our proprietary data. And so it also speaks to our the quality of our execution. As you all know, it's tough to expand margins while growing your sub base at this current pace.

71. Regarding the Company's future growth, Defendant Gandler assured investors on the earnings call that Fubo was positioned for future growth due to tailwinds from "three mega trends":

The tailwinds have never been stronger. Fubo is firmly at the intersection of three mega trends. The first is the secular decline of traditional television viewership. The second is the shift of TV ad dollars to connect the devices. And the third is online sports wagering a market we absolutely intend to enter.

Our growth opportunities are numerous, and there are a great many reasons for us to be optimistic given the optionality in the business. Since some of you are new to the story, it might be helpful for me to provide a quick background on who we are. In 2015, we found it Fubo introducing a live streaming platform to serve the needs of U.S. soccer fans, that we're unable to watch international soccer leaks. We quickly learned the soccer fans wanted three things: they wanted a greater breadth of sports and entertainment content; they wanted an intuitive user experience; and they, of course, wanted exceptional value.

72. Once again, Defendant Gandler touted the Company's proprietary data and technology and assured investors of improved retention, which was purportedly due to the Company's differentiated offering and personalized premium viewing experience:

Supporting our offerings is our proprietary data and technology platform that really optimized for live TV and sports, our platform has enabled us to regularly offer new features and functionality for our subscribers.

\* \* \*

We believe our platform offers a more differentiated, a more personalized premium viewing experience for sports fans. And that's really reflected in the recent reports highlighting customer satisfaction relative to our peers. And it also is reflected in our app ratings, and most importantly is reflected in our improving retention.

- 73. In response to Evercore ISI analyst, Kevin Rippey's question in the November 10, 2020 earnings call regarding Fubo's plans on expanding sports gambling, Defendant Gandler represented that Fubo had "already started executing on its [wagering] strategy" and that the Company is "going to be able to also sell in a lot of wagering opportunities" given its "acquisitions advantage," "engagement advantage," and "monetization advantage."
- 74. On November 16, 2020, the Company filed its quarterly report on SEC Form 10-Q for the third fiscal quarter 2020 ("Q3 2020 Report"). Appended as Exhibits 31.1, 31.2 and 32.2 to the Q3 2020 Report were signed SOX Certifications, wherein Defendants Gandler and Nardi,

respectively, certified that "the [Q3 2020 Report] does not contain any untrue statements of a material fact" and that "the information included in the [Q3 2020 Report] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations and cash flows of the [Company]" in compliance with Section 13(a) or Section 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

75. On December 1, 2020, the Company issued a press release entitled *fuboTV Acquires* Balto Sports as First Step Into Online Sports Wagering Market, announcing the acquisition of Balto Sports, a company that develops tools for users to organize and play fantasy sports games. In the press release, Defendant Gandler promoted the move as "instrumental" expansion of Fubo's sports betting ambitions, stating as follows:

We believe there are significant synergies between consumers who enjoy wagering and our subscribers who enjoy streaming live sports, creating a flywheel opportunity. As we've previously expressed, one of our goals with wagering is to expand our total available market (TAM) by developing another important revenue stream for fuboTV, as we are doing with our growing ad sales business.

The acquisition of Balto Sports will enable us to build a first class, free to play experience that brings consumers the best games around live sports. From there, we see a natural progression to layer on real money wagering in regulated markets complementing fuboTV's live streaming video for a highly engaging user experience within our platform. We will be strategic in our approach to wagering as we consider and evaluate different opportunities and will adjust our plans accordingly. We're excited to launch sports wagering, integrate it into our core offerings and deliver what we believe will be a truly groundbreaking live TV streaming platform to consumers.

- 76. The Company filed a Form 8-K dated December 3, 2020, pursuant to which it notified the public that John Textor had resigned as the Head of Studio of Fubo and from any and all other positions within the Company and its subsidiaries, effective October 30, 2020. The Company paid John Textor a sum of \$500,000 as a single lump sum payment as a part of the separation agreement.
- 77. On December 9, 2020, Fubo participated in a BMO Capital Markets 2020 Growth & ESG Conference to give investors updates on the Company's performance. During the conference,

Defendant Gandler touted the Company's strategy and its use of sophisticated algorithms as purportedly responsible for the surge in viewership, stating, in relevant part:

And so what happened with fubo I think it's really important for us and this is why we have confidence in our strategy is that while we weren't able to acquire anybody, we were really able to retain a lot of people. Viewing hours have gone from something like 120, 121, 123 to about 145 hours. . . . That is an enormous amount of viewing time. So couple takeaways from there. *One is the strategy works. We were able to surface more and more content that people like* and I think you hit the nail on the head when you said some people get you at hello, we got your wife in reality TV and *I think this gave us an opportunity to continue to play with our guys to look at our machine learning algorithms and to get people to watch more, which also led to obviously a better advertising conversion.* So that's what we were focused on before the sport season came back.

78. When asked about the acquisition of Balto Sports, Defendant Gandler highlighted the synergies between the two companies, stating, in relevant part:

And so we needed to make sure that this was a team that had a very specific skill set that we did not have, but yet was small enough that we can integrate into our larger group and allow them to leverage the resources and the metadata mapping and things that we think are going to allow us to really build something compelling.

And so the reason why Balto was because again, they are in the pick'ems game, they have had, over 30,000 players test the platform. They understand automation. We understand consumer journeys. We understand what we should be looking at from conversion funnels. And what this is going to allow us to do is launch a game at the end of the, I'll call it, first half of the year 2021. Don't hold me to it, but just say call it, June. These guys are going to be joining us, I think next week finally. So we're very excited about that. We've been planning.

79. Regarding gambling opportunities, at one point during the conference Defendant Gandler provided conflicting commentary, stating at one point that "We're building our free to play our strategy right now. Doing all the data mapping. Understanding which gains were and then eventually as we get into the second phase of this is where we're looking for an entry point into wagering in terms of potentially becoming a sports book." At a different time during the conference, Defendant Gandler sought to tamp down expectations for Fubo's sports betting, stating instead, that "no one should think of us as a . . . wagering company, we're not competing with DraftKings." The

BMO Capital Markets analyst picked on Defendant Gandler's contradictory statements and asked point-blank whether Fubo'TV was looking to become a licensed real money gaming operator (*i.e.* a DraftKings or a FanDuel), to which Defendant Gandler did not commit beyond saying it was a "clear option."

- 80. Furthermore, despite the title of the December 1, 2020 press release itself, and the fact that Fubo said it would mark "the company's *first move* into the online sports wagering market," the Balto Sports deal does not represent Fubo's "first step." What Fubo fails to disclose in that press release is that back on May 23, 2019, Fubo had previously announced a partnership that named FanDuel as its "exclusive sportsbook, online casino, horse racing and DFS partner." According to the *Kerrisdale Report* that agreement was terminated after only a year for reasons that have never been publicly provided.
- 81. Despite the hype, Balto Sports appears to have a defunct, inactive website. *See* https://www.playbalto.com/. Activity on their website appears to cease in February 2020, months before Fubo's acquisition.<sup>6</sup>
- 82. The Company's positive musings about the acquisition of Balto Sports worked. Following this news, several securities analysts raised price targets and began incorporating Balto Sports' valuation into Fubo's own valuation.
- 83. The above statements identified in ¶¶ 29 through 82 were materially false and misleading statements and failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business, operational, and compliance policies. Specifically, Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and failed to disclose to investors that: (i) Fubo's offering of products would be subject to significant cost escalation; (ii) Fubo could not successfully compete and perform as a sports book

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Balto Sports, *available at* https://web.archive.org/web/20200601000000\*/https://www.playbalto.com/ (last accessed July 12, 2021).

operator and lacked the ability and resources needed to capitalize on its online sports wagering opportunity; (iii) Fubo's data and inventory was not differentiated to allow Fubo to achieve its long-term advertising growth goals; (iv) Fubo's valuation was substantially overstated in light of its total revenue and subscription levels; and (v) Fubo did not possess significant advantages over its peers as it publicly touted. As detailed herein, these material facts rendered Defendants' statements during the Class Period materially false and misleading.

# THE TRUTH BEGINS TO EMERGE

- 84. On December 23, 2020 following days of meteoric rise in the price of the Company's stock—Richard Greenfield of Lightshed Partners ("Lightshed") initiated coverage with a report of Fubo titled *Initiating FUBO with Sell Ratting and \$8 Target Price*, with a sell recommendation for the Company and a \$8 one-year price target. In connection with initiating coverage, Lightshed called the prospects of Fubo achieving success with sports betting a "fantasy." Lightshed further observed that the Company "[may be] the most compelling short we have ever identified in our career as analysts."
- 85. On the same day, Fubo was downgraded by BMO Capital Markets to "market perform," down from "outperform," noting that Fubo's "valuation had gotten overheated" and explaining that "Fubo parted ways with WarnerMedia networks earlier this year, so it won't have a chunk of NBA regular-season games or the NCAA men's basketball tournament."
- 86. On this news, the shares of the Company declined \$17.82, or 28.74% over two days, from \$62.00 on December 22, 2020 to close at \$44.18 on December 24, 2020.
- 87. On December 27, 2020, Lightshed filed another report, titled *FuboTV* is a Money Losing *vMVPD*, *FuboTv* is not Roku nor FanDuel; Sell Now, in which Lightshed called Fubo a "money-losing virtual MVPD" and reiterated its sell recommendation. Lightshed questioned whether Fubo can turn its "fundamentally flawed MVDP/vMVPD business into a good one, especially if it lacks scale and

other product bundles." Lightshed differentiated Fubo among its competitors, stating that: "Fubo is not Netflix, Fubo is not Flutter/FanDuel, DraftKings nor even Penn/Barstool Sports, Fubo is not Roku and Fubo is not Trade Desk. Fubo is simply just another virtual multichannel video programming distributor (vMVPD) facing the same obstacles and financial challenges as every other vMVPD[s]."

- 88. Following the publication of Lightshed's second report, which harshly criticized Fubo's business model, the price of Fubo's shares declined \$5.24, or 11.86%, from \$44.18 on December 24, 2020 to close at \$38.94, on December 28, 2020.
- 89. On December 28, 2020, the barrage by securities analysts continued with Hedgeye analyst, Andrew Freedman, questioning the Company's valuation on the grounds that "a more bullish scenario with 1.5M paid subscribers, \$100 ARPU, and 15% adjusted EBITDA margin still only gets the stock up to \$23/share."
- 90. Fubo's shares continued its downward spiral on December 30, 2020, when *Kerrisdale Capital* published their report, which comprehensively dismantled Fubo's business model and exposed Fubo's flawed strategy. More specifically, the *Kerrisdale Report* reported that Fubo's core subscription business was "structurally unprofitable," due to "high variable content costs with contracted escalators." According to CW #1, "contracted escalators" referred to contractual provisions that built in automatic price increases under certain conditions. These provisions often made it economically infeasible for Fubo to generate a profit.
- 91. According to CW #1<sup>7</sup> who attended meetings on behalf of Fubo with content providers, Fubo was undergoing "high variable content costs" given that the contracts with content

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See background information concerning CWs Nos. 1 through 3 contained in the Non-Party Confidential Witnesses section, supra.

providers had to be renegotiated fairly regularly. According to CW #1, Fubo was only able to negotiate contracts with content providers for two to five years at a time.

- 92. Fubo failed to disclose the short-term nature of their contracts and the impact it had on the Company's financial position. Instead of negotiating long term contracts with a nominal increase, Fubo's frequent negotiations set the Company up for demands for higher fees by the content providers. The higher cost of contract renewals had to be absorbed by Fubo, which contributed to its losses, and required the Company to increase subscription fee to offset its higher expenses. Moreover, unlike its better capitalized peers, Fubo was required to forego renewing several contracts which resulted in reduced program content for its subscribers.
- 93. The impact of these short-term contracts on Fubo became apparent in July 2020, when Fubo had to part ways with Warner Media, leaving it without the Warner suite of networks, including the TNT and TBS channels which telecast NBA and MLB games. Being a "sports-first" vMPVD, this was a major blow for Fubo that would impact its revenues and make it more difficult to retain and attract new subscribers. Fubo added ESPN and the Disney Channel, but passed the added costs to subscribers, increasing the price of Fubo's base-package nearly 10% from \$55 to \$60.
- 94. Similarly, in July 2021, Fubo declined to renew its contract with the A&E family of networks, leaving its subscribers without popular television shows like "Pawn Stars," "Hoarders," and "Super Nanny." In contrast, Fubo's vMPVD competitor, Hulu + Live TV continues to offer the A&E family of networks at the \$64.99 per month base level price now charged by Fubo --an increase of \$15 since July 2020.
- 95. Moreover, according to CW #1, Fubo also had major content deals fall through, such its deal with HBO in April 2019 right before the final season of HBO's hit show "Game of Thrones" was set to premier. The deal fell through at the eleventh hour, despite HBO having already started giving Fubo some of its content, including episodes for "Game of Thrones." CW #1 also stated that

Fubo had their bid to buy PlayStation Vue, a streaming service owned by Sony, fall through in or around September/October 2019. Further elaborating on the Sony PlayStation Vue project, CW #1 stated that acquisition of PlayStation Vue was discussed by Defendant Gandler at Company-wide meetings and the acquisition would have allowed Fubo to absorb its subscriber base and gain name recognition.

- 96. The *Kerrisdale Report* further revealed that Fubo "does not have any data or inventory that is differentiated and cannot provide the reach many advertisers crave." The *Kerrisdale Report* explained that traditional connected TV, which is the source of advertising revenue, has been on a decline in the past two years, with a massive increase in ad inventory being anticipated in the coming years. Contrary to Fubo's bullish statements, the Company had "nothing to differentiate itself" in order to sell more advertising or "levers [to] pull to meaningfully improve its pricing."
- 97. CW #1 corroborated the additional claims made by the *Kerrisdale Report*. For example, CW #1 stated that Fubo did not possess enough lucrative user data that could be shared with content providers to be used to target advertisers. Rather, Fubo was "very limited on targeted ads." CW #1, who attended meetings with content providers, also stated that Fubo admitted to content providers in these meetings that "we don't have the ability" to provide user data." CW #1 explained that user data refers to a "users' location, age, how many hours they spend watching particular types of content, the types of content they watch and the location where they're watching, in addition to other demographic information." Content providers who put ad dollars towards advertising want to know this type of information.
- 98. Fubo's 2019 Annual Report stated that the Company is "increasingly leveraging our data and analytics capabilities to optimize advertisements for both users and advertisers. We need to continue to maintain an appropriate advertising inventory for the growing demand for ads on our platform." The Company also stated that Fubo "rel[ies] on our ability to increase advertising revenues.

Our ability to leverage our data to provide users with relevant ads and measure the effectiveness of these advertisements on our platform is also a key factor to an increased wallet share of advertising budgets spent on our platform." In reality, Fubo did not have the capability to track lucrative "user data" sought by advertisers.

99. CW #1 stated that Fubo was not able to provide user data to content providers partly because of "technical" reasons on Fubo's "back end." CW #1's recalled at meetings that content providers would "request to collect user data" but the Company had to refuse by saying "we can't do that."

100. The *Kerrisdale Report* also concluded that Fubo's acquisition of Balto Sports as a "foolish" attempt to enter the "already highly competitive space [of sport wagering]." The Company misleadingly used the popular field of legal sports betting as an attractive bait for investors by announcing that "fubo'TV intends to expand into online sports wagering market," in its November 10th letter to shareholders. However, Defendants failed to disclose that Balto Sports is "a company with 3 employees," with "no valuable IP," and "a failed test product" that "had mothballed operations during the pandemic." Fubo's acquisition of Balto Sports came shortly before Dish Network's Sling TV's strategic sports betting deal with DraftKings, a fully established and operating sports book with an existing online and mobile gambling infrastructure, which ultimately proved to be threatening competition for Fubo. Balto Sports had none of these capabilities.

101. The *Kerrisdale Report* also concluded that Fubo's strategy of: "dropping content to manage costs is reactionary and destined to cause eventual spikes in churn and SAC<sup>8</sup>. All Fubo can do is continue to raise price [sic], take on more and more expensive tiers, thereby shrinking its addressable market." Fubo's dropping of Warner Media in July 2020 is a prime example of this self-defeating business strategy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "SAC" refers to Subscriber Acquisition Cost.

- 102. On the publication of the *Kerrisdale Report*, Fubo's shares declined another \$9.70, or 25.72%, to close at \$28.00 on December 31, 2020, on unusually high trading volume.
- 103. On January 4, 2021, just after the close of Q4 2020 but before the results for the quarter were released, the financial industry site *Motley Fool* published an article titled *There's a Big Problem with FuboTV Stock* with a subtitle "The wildly unprofitable streamer tries to put lipstick on a pig with a creative metric." The *Motley Fool* article questioned the Company's business model, stating that the Company is "nowhere close to turning a profit" as the "direct costs of delivering its service are higher than revenue." Relatedly, the article noted that "subscriber related expenses, which include affiliate distribution rights and cloud computing charges, among other things, were slightly higher than revenue in the third quarter."
- 104. The *Motley Fool* article's claim that the Company is "nowhere close to turning a profit" is borne out by Fubo's consistent and continuing report of losses. The Company reported a net loss of \$570 million for year ending 2020, including a \$248.9 million impairment charge for intangible goods and assets. The Company announced its Q4 2020 results on March 2, 2021 and reported a net loss of \$167 million. Once again in their Q1 2021 financial results reported on May 11, 2021, the Company reported a net loss of \$70 million. Even though the Company has continued to report a growth in subscribers and increased their subscription cost, those modest increases are far outweighed by the Company's soaring expenses described herein.
- 105. The *Motley Fool* article also questioned Fubo's other financial metrics including Non-GAAP adjusted contribution margin, which Fubo reported to be 16.1%. The *Motley Fool* accused Fubo of "concoct[ing] a profitability metric that's positive," ultimately concluding:

It should now be pretty clear that fuboTV's adjusted contribution margin is a meaningless number. It's a function of how quickly the company is gaining subscribers, not a representation of profitability. The fact that the company reports such a misleading metric is a huge red flag. It's reason enough to stay far away from the stock

- 106. On this news, Fubo's shares declined an additional \$3.99, or 14%, to close at \$24.24 on January 4, 2021.
- 107. Fubo continued to falsely portray itself as having advantages over its peers—Hulu and YouTube TV two of the closest competitors for the Company. Yet, Fubo had far more limitations than advantages in comparison to its peers. CW #2 attested to the fact that Hulu and YouTube TV were the vMVPDs with the same "blackout abilities" as Fubo, and they could be considered Fubo's peers in the vMVPD sector.
- Despite claims in Fubo's letter to shareholders dated July 8, 2020 for its results for Q1 2020, such as "we have made several significant recent announcements that highlight the competitive strength of our company and further differentiate us in the marketplace," Fubo's subscription cost (\$64.99 a month for its "Starter Pack" and \$79.99 a month for its "Elite Pack") is on par with the other two, more established streaming services- Hulu + Live TV and Youtube, despite offering substandard content. For example, Hulu + Live TV is priced similarly to Fubo's "Starter Pack" at \$64.99 a month, while YouTube TV also is similarly priced as the other two. However, YouTube TV offers unlimited cloud DVR storage as well as other subscriber perks like three screens at the same time.
- 109. CW #3 also reaffirmed Fubo's platform's limitations as compared to its peer group. CW #3 stated Fubo's users must share limited DVR space and each user does not get their own storage space, compared to YouTube TV where each user on the same account get their own DVR storage space. Moreover, YouTube TV's base package also offers recorded episodes that do not contain advertisements, so the users don't have to fast forward, while Fubo does not have this option. These limitations severely undercut Defendant Gandler's statements made in Fubo's July 8, 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Blackout Abilities" enables distributors to handle blackouts and deliver alternate streams of content, when required. This usually arises with respect to regional sports networks and broadcast TV stations.

shareholder letter, made in contact with the Company's Q1 2020 Report such as: "We believe fuboTV is at the forefront of the streaming revolution and has a significant advantage not only over peers in the vMVPD space but also over traditional cable television" and "we believe a fuboTV subscription offers consumers the best value of any other live TV streaming platform." See ¶ 48, supra.

#### **POST CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 110. Soon after the Class Period ended, Lightshed Partners published another report on January 19, 2021, lowering Fubo's price target to \$6.50. Reiterating its "sell" recommendation, Lightshed Partners concluded that s that the Company would need at least \$1 billion in 2021 to finance its "sports betting fantasy." Following the release of this report, Fubo's stock price dropped 5% to \$30.74 a share.
- 111. On March 2, 2021, Fubo reported a net loss of \$167 million for Q4 2020, which dwarfs Company's earnings of \$105 million in the quarter. The annual losses of the Company ballooned to a whopping \$570 million. Fubo reported Q4 2020 adjusted losses of \$2.47 per share, more than double the reported loss of \$1.07 per share for the same quarter a year ago. On this news, the shares of Fubo dropped from \$43.21 on March 2, 2021 to close at \$34.14 on March 3, 2021, representing a drop of almost 21%.
- 112. The guidance for Q1 2021 further disappointed analysts. For example, BMO Capital Markets trimmed its price target from \$50 to \$45 noting that guidance implies "more moderate growth in average revenue per user, along with dampened gross margins."
- 113. Further, Fubo once again seems to be employing the same tactic of hyping up its sports wagering business to improve the price of its shares. Fubo recently announced the acquisition of Vigtory, with the deal closing in Q1 2021 for \$37.2 million. However, this acquisition comes at the heels of Dish Network's Sling TV's strategic sports wagering deal with DraftKings, a much more

established sports book. While the Company projects their sportsbook to become operational in Q4 2021, the Company has yet to undertake the immense regulatory approval that is required to operate an online sports book for the same.

- 114. On March 8, 2021, Fubo's President, Jordan Fiksenbaum resigned from the Company effective immediately to become a consultant at Pulse Evolution Corporation, a majority owned subsidiary of Fubo. On news of this public announcement, Fubo's stock dropped another 9% to close at \$26.85 on March 24, 2021. Overall, Fubo's stock has dropped 37% in the month of March 2021 alone, failing to rebound from its pre-disclosure levels.
- 115. One thing is certain—Fubo still remains unprofitable. Fubo continues to spend more on content and delivery fees than it generates from subscriber fees. This is basic math. Given that these problems have continued beyond the Class Period, Fubo once again saw a drop of 8% on April 12, 2021 to close at \$21.35. Then, on May 11, 2021, the Company reported a net loss of \$70.2 million for Q1 2021. Importantly, Fubo continues to report losses even though Fubo reported approximately 590,961 subscribers and has steadily increased its subscription price. *See* Q1 2021 Form 10-Q.
- 116. Raising further questions on the Company's deteriorating financial health, Defendant Gandler has steadily parted with his common stock of the Company. On November 23, 2020, Defendant Gandler sold 26 (1%) of his shares at \$24.87 and sold 170,336 (8%) of his shares on March 4, 2021 while the stock was trading at \$32.26, parting with 9% of his stake in the two transactions. More recently, Gandler sold 482,000 shares (16%) of Fubo stock on June 25, 2021, at \$32.57 per share, and another 88,642 shares (6%) of Fubo stock on June 29, 2021, at \$35.00 per share, disposing of 22% of his personal holdings within the span of a week.
- 117. Most recently, Fubo lost the rights to A&E family of networks which includes popular channels such as A&E, FYI Channel, History Channel, Lifetime, Lifetime Movie Network, and Vice TV. Fubo's subscribers are now without hit shows like "Pawn Stars," "Super Nanny," and "Hoarders"

as of July 1, 2021. On this news, Fubo's stock declined 5% to close at \$30.96 on July 1, 2021. It appears that the discontinuation of these channels is causing a ripple effect and the stock continues to trend downwards.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 118. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on its own behalf and as representative of a Class, consisting of all those who purchased or otherwise acquired shares of Fubo during the Class Period (the "Class") and were damaged upon the revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures. Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.
- 119. The Class is so numerous and geographically dispersed that joinder of all members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, Fubo's shares were actively traded on the NYSE. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds or thousands of members in the proposed Class. Record owners and other members of the Class may be readily identifiable from information and records in the possession of Defendants or the Company's transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.
- 120. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class. Plaintiff and members of the Class sustained damages from the same wrongful conduct of Defendants. The injuries and damages of each member of the Class were directly caused by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of the laws described herein.
  - 121. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of members of

the Class. Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class and has no interest which is averse to the interests of absent Class members. Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation, including class actions in the financial services industry.

- 122. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class, which predominate over questions affecting solely individual members of the Class. These common questions of law include, without limitation:
  - whether statements made by Fubo and the Individual Defendants to investors during the Class Period included misrepresentations of material facts about the financial condition, operations and oversight of operations at Fubo;
  - whether Fubo and the Individual Defendants acted knowingly or recklessly in issuing false and misleading statements or omitting material information that would correct the misstatements;
  - whether Fubo's and the Individual Defendants' acts as alleged herein constituted violations of the federal securities laws;
  - whether the prices of Fubo's shares during the Class Period were impacted by Fubo's and the Individual Defendants' conduct described herein;
  - injury suffered by Plaintiff and Class members; and
  - the appropriate measure of damages suffered by Plaintiff and Class members.
- 123. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy because joinder of all Class members is impracticable. Treatment as a class will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender.
- 124. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of claims by many Class members who could not afford individually to litigate claims such as those asserted in this Amended Complaint.

  The cost to the court system of adjudication of such individualized litigation would be substantial.

  The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of

inconsistent or varying adjudications establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Fubo and the Individual Defendants.

125. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

# APPLICABILITY OF PRESUMPTION OF RELIANCE FRAUD ON THE MARKET DOCTRINE

- 126. The market for Fubo's shares was open, well-developed and efficient at all relevant times. As a result of the materially false and/or misleading statements and/or failures to disclose, Fubo's shares traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired the Company's shares relying upon the integrity of the market price of Fubo's shares and market information relating to Fubo and have been damaged thereby.
- 127. During the Class Period, the artificial inflation of Fubo's shares was caused by the material misrepresentations and/or omissions particularized in this Amended Complaint causing the damages sustained by Plaintiff and other members of the Class. As described herein, during the Class Period, Defendants made or caused to be made a series of materially false and/or misleading statements about Fubo's business, prospects, and operations. These material misstatements and/or omissions created an unrealistically positive assessment of Fubo's financials and its business, operations, and prospects, thus causing the price of the Company's shares to be artificially inflated at all relevant times, and when disclosed, negatively affected the value of the Fubo's shares. Defendants' materially false and/or misleading statements during the Class Period resulted in Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchasing Fubo's shares at such artificially inflated prices, and each of them has been damaged as a result.
- 128. Plaintiff will rely upon the presumption of reliance established by the fraud-on-the-market doctrine as:

- Fubo and the Individual Defendants made public misrepresentations or failed to disclose material facts during the Class Period;
- these misrepresentations and omissions were material to Plaintiff and the Class;
- Fubo's shares were traded on the NYSE and were covered by numerous analysts;
- Fubo's shares were liquid and traded with significant volume during the Class Period;
- the misrepresentations and omissions alleged herein would likely induce a reasonable investor to misjudge the value of the Fubo's shares; and
- Plaintiff and Class members purchased and/or sold shares of Fubo between the time
  Fubo and the Individual Defendants misrepresented or failed to disclose material facts
  and the time the true facts were disclosed, without knowledge of the misrepresented
  or omitted facts.
- 129. As a result of the foregoing, the market for Fubo's shares promptly digested current information regarding Fubo from all publicly available sources and reflected such information in Fubo's share price. Under these circumstances, all purchasers of Fubo's shares during the Class Period suffered similar injury through their purchase of Fubo's shares at artificially inflated prices. Thus, a presumption of reliance applies.
- 130. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to a presumption of reliance upon the integrity of the market.
- 131. In the alternative, Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to a presumption of reliance established by the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128 (1972), because Defendants omitted material information during the Class Period violating a duty to disclose such information as described above. Because this action involves Defendants' failure to disclose material adverse information regarding the Company's business operations and financial prospects—information that Defendants were obligated to disclose—positive proof of reliance is not a prerequisite to recovery. All that is necessary is that the facts withheld be material in the sense that a reasonable investor might have considered them important in making investment decisions. Given the importance of the Class Period material misstatements and omissions set forth above, that

requirement is satisfied here.

#### **LOSS CAUSATION**

- 132. Defendants' wrongful conduct, as alleged herein, directly and proximately caused the economic loss suffered by Plaintiff and the Class.
- 133. During the Class Period, Plaintiff and the Class purchased Fubo's shares at artificially inflated prices and were damaged thereby. The price of Fubo's shares significantly declined when the misrepresentations made to the market, and/or the information alleged herein to have been concealed from the market, and/or the effects thereof, were revealed, causing investors' losses.

#### NO SAFE HARBOR

134. The statutory safe harbor provided for forward-looking statements under certain circumstances does not apply to the allegedly false statements and omissions pled in this Amended Complaint. The statements alleged to be false and misleading herein all relate to then-existing facts and circumstances. To the extent certain of the statements alleged to be false and misleading may be characterized as forward-looking, they were not adequately identified as "forward-looking" statements when made and were not accompanied by meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the purportedly forward-looking statements. Alternatively, to the extent that the statutory safe harbor is intended to apply to any forward-looking statements pled herein, Fubo and the Individual Defendants are liable for those false and misleading forward-looking statements because at the time each of those forward-looking statements was made, the particular speaker knew that the particular forward-looking statement was false and misleading, and/or the forward-looking statement was authorized and/or approved by an executive officer of Fubo who knew that those statements were false and misleading when made.

#### **SCIENTER ALLEGATIONS**

- 135. As alleged herein, Defendants acted with scienter since Defendants knew that the public documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of the Company were materially false and/or misleading; knew that such statements or documents would be issued or disseminated to the investing public; and knowingly and substantially participated or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or documents as primary violations of the federal securities laws. As set forth elsewhere herein in detail, Fubo and Individual Defendants, by virtue of their receipt of information reflecting the true facts regarding Fubo, their control over, and/or receipt and/or modification of Fubo's allegedly materially misleading misstatements and/or their associations with the Company which made them privy to confidential proprietary information concerning Fubo, participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.
- 136. After its merger, Fubo embarked on a campaign to establish itself as a major player in the vMPVD market space. After its public listing on the NYSE, Fubo has repeatedly touted its growth prospects and advantages over its peers. These exaggerated and unsubstantiated claims appear to be a calculated effort to further raise capital by inflating the value of its shares. For example, the Company's acquisition of Balto Sports led several securities analysts to raise their price targets and began incorporating Balto Sports' valuation into Fubo's own valuation. But this strategy was never realistic. A report by Lightshed Partners dated January 19, 2021 concluded that the Company would need at least \$1 billion in 2021 to finance its "sports betting fantasy."
- 137. Defendants knew and/or recklessly disregarded the falsity and misleading nature of the information that they caused to be disseminated to the investing public. The fraudulent scheme described herein could not have been perpetrated during the Class Period without the knowledge and complicity or, at least, the reckless disregard of the personnel at the highest levels of the Company, including the Individual Defendants.

- 138. The Individual Defendants, because of their positions with Fubo, made and/or controlled the contents of the Company's public statements during the Class Period. Each Defendant was provided with or had access to the information alleged herein to be false and/or misleading prior to or shortly after their issuance and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Because of their positions and access to material non-public information, these Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded that the adverse facts specified herein had not been disclosed to and were being concealed from the public and that the positive representations that were being made were materially false and misleading. As a result, each of these Defendants is responsible for the accuracy of Fubo's corporate statements and are therefore responsible and liable for the representations contained therein.
- 139. Individual Defendants, by virtue of their roles at the Company, as well as attesting to, and signing the requisite SEC filings, were all actively involved in the affairs of the Company. Because of their positions and access to material non-public information, Individual Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded that the adverse facts specified herein had not been disclosed to and were being concealed from the public and that the positive representations that were being made were materially false and misleading.
- 140. For example, according to CW #1, Defendant Gandler was very "hands-on," during CW # 1's initial time with the Company, as he knew all employees' names and asked for their input about the direction of the Company. At these Company-wide all-hands meetings, Defendant Gandler told employees "My goal is to become a publicly traded company," and, "We're going to have the subscriber growth or whatever we need within a year or two years," according to CW #1. Attesting to Defendant Gandler's involvement in the day-to-day affairs of the Company and his influence during content provider negotiation process, CW #1 further indicated that Defendant Gandler attended meetings with content providers, such as HBO and Starz.

- 141. According to CW #2, Defendant Gandler told employees that Fubo was "on the path toward profitability," but did not provide a concrete timeline. CW #3 also indicated that Defendant Gandler sometimes went into details about new packages Fubo had introduced and how many subscriptions the company generated based on the new packages, further showcasing his involvement into day-to-day Company affairs.
- 142. Additionally, Defendant Bronfman was found guilty of a charge of insider trading on trades made in Vivendi Universal by a Paris Trial Court on January 21, 2011. The conviction was affirmed by the Paris Court of Appeal in May 2014 and subsequently by the Appellate Court in April 2017. The final judgment entered by Paris Court of Appeal ordered Defendant Bronfman to pay € 2.5 million euros. Despite being convicted of insider trading, Fubo *still* appointed Defendant Bronfman to its Board of Directors in the capacity of Executive Chairman.

## **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

## **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

## (Violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder) Against All Defendants

- 143. Plaintiff hereby incorporates each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though fully set forth herein.
- 144. During the Class Period, Fubo and the Individual Defendants, individually and in concert, directly or indirectly, disseminated or approved false statements which they knew or deliberately disregarded in that they contained misrepresentations and failed to disclose material facts to make the statements made not misleading.
- 145. The Individual Defendants at all times were extremely involved in the Company's affairs. Individual Defendants actively led the Company to its stock exchange listing, they led regular meetings to discuss Fubo's key metrics like subscriber growth, content provider contracts, and new packages introduced by Fubo. Defendant Gandler shared frequent reports of subscriber growth and

had access to software like Datadog, which tracked the user and subscriber data. Defendant Gandler was also involved in negotiations with content providers as he attended meetings with content providers like HBO and Starz.

- 146. Fubo and the Individual Defendants violated § 10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 by: (a) making false statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts needed to make the statements not misleading; or (b) engaging in acts and practices that operated as a fraud or deceit upon Plaintiff and others similarly situated in connection with purchases of Fubo's shares during the Class Period.
- 147. Fubo and the Individual Defendants acted with scienter because they knew that the statements issued in the name of Fubo were materially false and misleading; knew that these statements would be disseminated to investors; and knowingly and substantially participated, or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of these statements as primary violations of securities laws. Fubo and the Individual Defendants, through receipt of information reflecting true facts about Fubo, their control over, and/or receipt of or modification to Fubo's allegedly materially misleading statements, which made them aware of Fubo's confidential proprietary information, participated in the fraudulent scheme complained of herein.
- 148. The Individual Defendants had actual knowledge of material omissions and/or the falseness of material statements set forth by Fubo, and intended to deceive Plaintiff and Class members, or at a minimum, recklessly disregarded the truth through their failure to ascertain and disclose the truth in statements made by them or other Fubo employees to investors, including Plaintiff and Class members. These misrepresentations and omissions were material. A reasonable investor would consider the facts—such as the structural unprofitability of Fubo's core subscription model—important in deciding whether to buy shares of Fubo stock and would have viewed the aggregate of information available to be significantly altered by the disclosure of this and other material

facts

- 149. Pursuant to the foregoing, the price of Fubo's shares was artificially inflated during the Class Period. Due to their lack of knowledge of the false nature of statements made by Fubo and the Individual Defendants, Plaintiff and Class members relied on the statements made by Fubo and the Individual Defendants and/or the integrity of the market price of Fubo's shares during the Class Period in purchasing shares of Fubo at prices that were artificially inflated due to false and misleading statements made by Fubo and the Individual Defendants.
- 150. Had Plaintiff and Class members been made aware that the market price of Fubo's shares were artificially and falsely inflated by the misleading statements made by Fubo and the Individual Defendants, as well as by the material adverse information that Fubo and the Individual Defendants failed to disclose, they would not have purchased Fubo's shares at artificially inflated prices, or purchased them at any price.
- 151. Based on the wrongful conducted alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial. Fubo and the Individual Defendants violated Section 10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder and are liable to Plaintiff and Class members for significant damages suffered *via* their purchases of shares of Fubo during the Class Period.

#### **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

## (Violation of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act) Against the Individual Defendants

- 152. Plaintiff hereby incorporates each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though fully set forth herein.
- 153. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants were involved in the management and operation of Fubo's business affairs. Due to their senior positions, they had knowledge of adverse non-public information regarding Fubo's business model, strategy, valuation, and revenue targets and

goals and false representations in connection therewith.

154. As directors and/or officers of a publicly owned company, the Individual Defendants

had a duty to disseminate accurate and truthful information regarding Fubo's financial condition and

results of operations, and to correct any public statements issued by Fubo which were materially false

or misleading.

155. Due to their positions of authority at Fubo, the Individual Defendants controlled the

contents of various public filings, press releases and reports which Fubo disseminated in the market

during the Class Period. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants utilized their authority

to cause Fubo to execute the wrongful acts alleged herein. The Individual Defendants were therefore

"controlling persons" at Fubo pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. On this basis, they

were participants in the unlawful conduct alleged which caused the prices of Fubo's shares to be

artificially inflated.

156. As information provided by CW #1 has emerged, Defendant Gandler provided

regular updates on subscriber growth during Company-wide all-hands meetings. In many of these

meetings Defendant Gandler told employees "[m]y goal is to become a publicly traded company,"

and, "[w]e're going to have the subscriber growth or whatever we need within a year or two years,"

according to CW #1. Defendant Gandler's day-to-day involvement is further indicated by the fact

that Defendant Gandler attended meetings with content providers, such as HBO and Starz. CW #2

also recalled Defendant Gandler saying Fubo was "on the path towards profitability" likely during

company-wide, all hands meetings.

157. Based on the conduct described above, the Individual Defendants are liable for the

violations committed by Fubo pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF** 

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands relief as follows:

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A. Certifying this lawsuit as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of

Civil Procedure, certifying Plaintiff as Class Representative;

B. Awarding damages in favor of Plaintiff and members of the Class against Fubo and

the Individual Defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of Fubo's

wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial;

C. Awarding Plaintiff and members of the Class their costs of suit, including reasonable

attorneys' fees and expenses, and including expert fees, as provided by law;

D. Awarding Plaintiff and members of the Class pre- and post-judgment interest at the

maximum rate allowable by law; and

E. Directing such further relief as it may deem just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a jury trial

as to all issues triable by a jury.

Dated: July 12, 2021

LOWEY DANNENBERG, P.C.

<u>/s/Andrea Farah</u>

Andrea Farah

Christian Levis
David C. Harrison

44 South Broadway, Suite 1100

White Plains, New York 10601

THE 1 1 (04.4) 007 0500

Telephone: (914) 997-0500

Email: afarah@lowey.com

clevis@lowey.com

dharrison@lowey.com

Anthony M. Christina (admitted pro hac vice)

One Tower Bridge

100 Front Street, Suite 520

West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Telephone: (215) 399-4770

Email: achristina@lowey.com

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Counsel for Lead Plaintiff Nordine Aamchoune and the Class

## THE SCHALL LAW FIRM

Brian Schall 2049 Century Park East, Suite 2460 Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: (424) 303-1964 Email: brian@schallfirm.com

Additional Counsel for Lead Plaintiff